

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

SAM-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /077 W

----- 105257

R 201118Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6087

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7495

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO AND GANDHI EXCHANGE FURTHER LETTERS

1. THE INDIAN PRESS MAY 20 GIVES PROMINENT COVERAGE TO LETTERS EXCHANGED BY PRIME MINISTERS BHUTTO AND GANDHI IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORMET'S OVERFLIGHT OF INDIAN TERRITORY MAY 19 EN ROUTE TO NORTH KOREA AND CHINA. IN HIS LETTER BHUTTO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE ISLAMABAD ACCORD "WILL GO A LONG WAY TO ESTABLISH A POSITIVE CLIMATE OF RELATIONS" THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER REPLIED WITH THE HOPE THAT "WE WILL ENTER INTO AN ERA OF FRUITFUL COOPERATION" THE FULL TEXT OF THE LETTERS ARE PROVIDED BELOW. ALTHOUGH THE DELHI NEWSPAPERS EXPLAIN THAT THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS IS NO MORE THAN A NORMAL DIPLOMATIC COURTESY, THE STATESMAN APPENDS A COMMENT THAT

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THE EXCHANGE IS "NOTABLE FOR THE EXTREMELY OPTIMISTIC

TONE OF MR. BHUTTO'S MESSAGE". THE TIMES OF INDIA NOTES FURTHER THAT CLEARANCE FOR THE OVERFLIGHT WAS GIVEN BY INDIA AS "A TOKEN OF GOOD WILL" BEFORE THE ISLAMABAD AGREEMENT. THE INDIAN EXPRESS ADDS A COMMENT THAT PAKISTAN MAY HAVE A CHANCE OF RECIPROCATING THE INDIAN GESTURE WHEN MRS. GANDHI FLIES TO MOSCOW JUNE 8.

2. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S LETTER. QUOTE. AS I OVER-FLY THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA, I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY CORDIAL GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES TO YOUR EXCELLENCY. I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THE ACCORD AT THE RECENT MEETING HELD BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS AT ISLAMABAD WILL GO A LONG WAY TO ESTABLISH A POSITIVE CLIMATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. YOU MAY REST ASSURED THAT WE ON OUR SIDE WILL IMPLEMENT THE ACCORD BY THE AGREED DATE. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CONVEY TO YOUR EXCELLENCY BEST WISHES FOR YOUR PERSONAL HEALTH AND HAPPINESS AND CONTINUED PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF INDIA. PLEASE ACCEPT EXCELLENCY, ASSURANCES OF HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.

3. PRIME MINISTER GANDHI'S REPLY. QUOTE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE SENT WHILE OVERFLYING INDIA. I FULLY RECIPROCATE THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY YOU. WE HOPE THAT THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS AT ISLAMABAD WILL LEAD TO A PROPER CLIMATE OF UNDERSTANDING AND THAT WE WILL ENTER INTO AN ERA OF FRUITFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. PLEASE ACCEPT MY GOOD WISHES FOR YOUR PERSONAL WELL-BEING AND FOR THE CONTINUED PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN. WITH ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE. SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, AIRCRAFT OVERFLIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE07495
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760196-0844
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Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760533/aaaabbte.tel
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